

# GENEALOGY BASICS

Valerie Edgeworth

CE Consultant

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

# *Presentation Overview*

- Steps to begin Genealogy Research
  - Research Tips
  - Common Genealogy Records
  - Research Repositories in Kentucky
  - Online Resources
- \* This is a lot of information to absorb. I will provide reference sheets with detailed information about specific records.**

# *Reasons Patrons Research their Family Histories*

- It's fun!
- To find out about themselves and their families
- Their friends and family are interested in genealogy
- Family medical history
- Religious beliefs

**\*\* The reasons for research will affect the ways in which researchers approach genealogy and the types of information they are seeking.**

# *Tips for Beginners*

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- ❑ Be patient; genealogy takes time
- ❑ Be open to what you find out about your family
- ❑ Document all of your research
- ❑ Handwriting differs over time
- ❑ Check for spelling variations

# Getting Started

- Pedigree Charts
- Talk with family members to gather family information and stories
- Search records family members may have: bibles, photographs, letters

# *Location, Location*

- Location is important: Most records are arranged by county –the county they were created/filed in.
- County boundaries changed over time
- Many county courthouses have been through a disaster (fire, flood, water leak) resulting in record loss.

# *Record Types*

- Public Records (Primary Sources)
  - Birth, Marriage, Death Records
  - Deeds, Wills, Tax Assessments, Census Records
- Private Records (Secondary Sources)
  - Family Histories
  - Biographies
  - County Histories







# Public Records - Marriage

532

## MARRIAGE BOND.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.  
MASON COUNTY COURT.

Be it Known, That we Robbie Ralfeff  
as principal, and \_\_\_\_\_  
as surety, are jointly and severally bound to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the sum of  
One hundred dollars.

### The Condition of this Bond is as follows:

THAT, WHEREAS, Marriage is intended to be solemnized between the above bound

Robbie Ralfeff  
AND  
Amy Lee McDaniel

Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, this bond shall be void, other-  
wise it shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated at Maysville Mason County, Kentucky,  
this 3 day of Oct. 1906

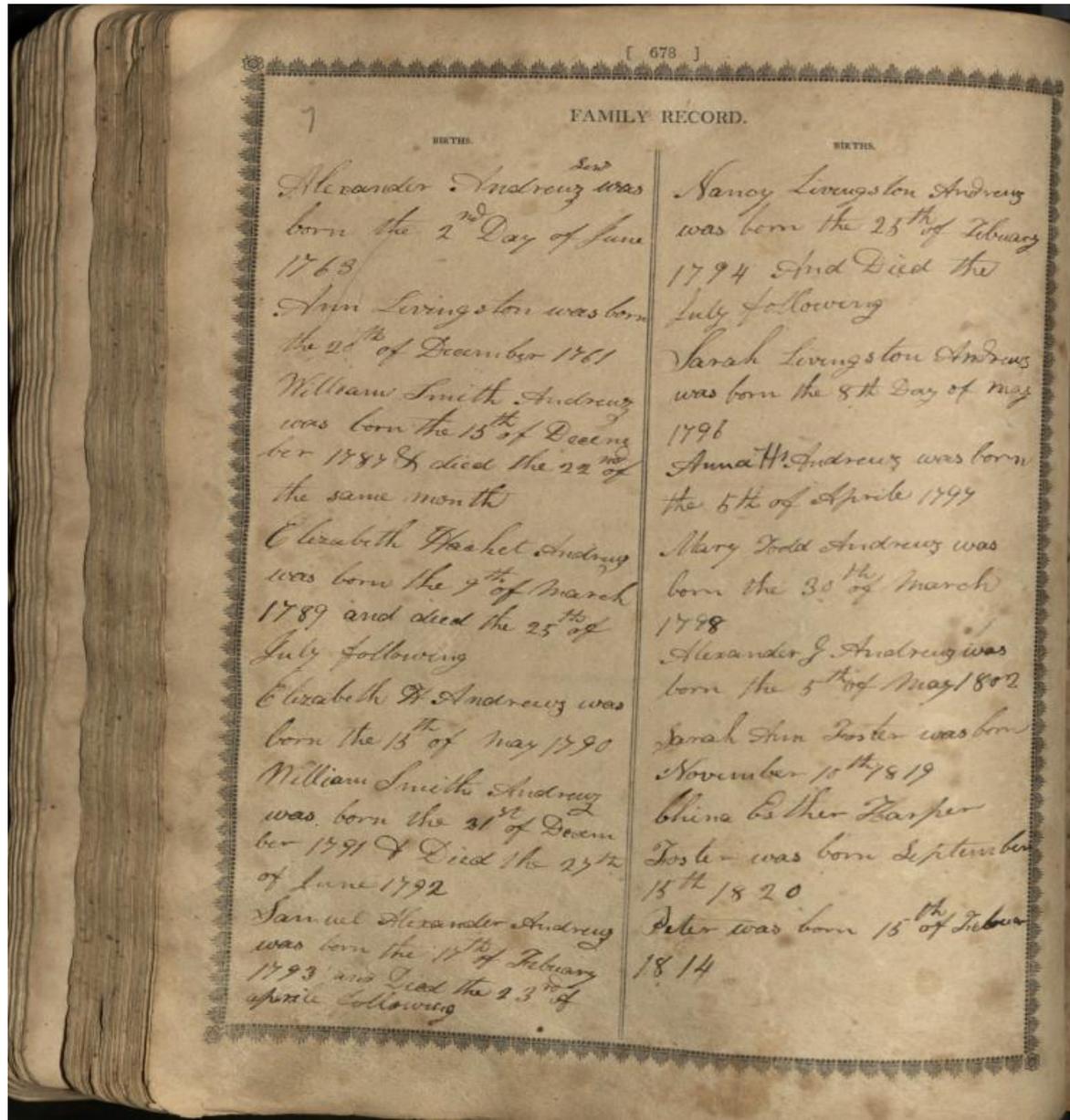
x Robbie Ralfeff  
C. C. Lester

ATTEST:

C. H. Ward Clerk.  
Mason County Court.

By B. H. Lindsay D. C.

# Private Records – Family Bible



# *Private Records – Family Histories*



# *Other Records*

- Land Records/Deeds
- Military Records
- Cemetery Records
- Court Case Files & Order Books
- Newspapers
- Tax Records
- Family records - bibles, photographs
- Oral history interviews

*Challenges in  
Family History  
Research*

# *What's in a name?*

## **Silent H**

AYRE, HEYR or  
CRISP, CHRISP

## **Silent Letters**

MARK, MARKE

## **Different Vowels**

INGALLS, ENGELS

## **Add or Remove an**

## **Ending "S"**

OWENS, OWEN

## **Watch for Letter**

## **Transposition**

CRISP, CRIPS

## **Typing Errors**

FULLER, FULER

JAPP, KAPP

# *Spelling Variations*

## George Washington Smith

George Washington Smith

Washington Smith

George W. Smith

Wash Smith

George Smith

G. Smith

G.W. Smith

W. Smith

# Spelling Variations

Robertson

Robertson

Roberson

Robinson

Robberson

Robbinson

Roberts

Smith

Smith

Smyth

Smythe

Smithe

Ryan

Ryan

Ryans

Ryon

Ryons

Rhyon

Rhyons

Ryhones

# Folklore



# Online Research

# Online Resources

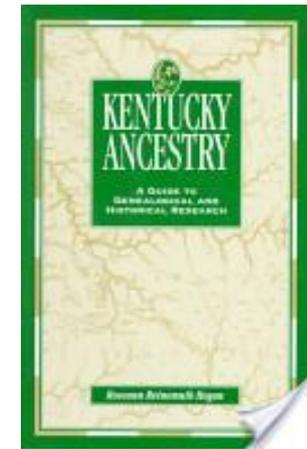
- Catalogs- Library Catalogs, Digital Collections
- Ancestry
- FamilySearch
- Heritage Quest
- Internet
- Vital Statistics Indexes
- Obituary Index
- Sanborn Maps
- National Parks Service - Soldiers and Sailors

# *Kentucky Websites*

- Ky. Dept. for Libraries & Archives
- Ky. Historical Society
- Ky. Land Office
- Office of Vital Statistics
- Ky. GenWeb Project
- Various Public Libraries

# Print Resources

- We will send handouts that cover a lot of the information we discussed today
- Kentucky ancestry : a guide to genealogical and historical research / by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan. 1992.  
ISBN 0916489493



# *Places to Research*

- Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
- Kentucky Historical Society
- Courthouses
- Local Libraries
- Local Historical & Genealogical Societies
- Office of Vital Statistics
- Ky. Land Office
- Online

# Any Questions?

Valerie Edgeworth

CE Consultant, KDLA

502.564.1719

[valerie.edgeworth@ky.gov](mailto:valerie.edgeworth@ky.gov)

